

# The Righteousness of God

## My Identity in Christ

### Romans 1:1-7 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who am I?

*"Secularity is a way of being dependent on the responses of our environment. The secular or false self is the self which is fabricated, as Thomas Merton says, by social compulsions. 'Compulsive' is indeed the best adjective for the false self. It points to the need for ongoing and increasing affirmation. Who am I? I am the one who is liked, praised, admired, disliked, hated or despised. Whether I am a pianist, a businessman or a minister, what matters is how I am perceived by my world. If being busy is a good thing, then I must be busy. If having money is a sign of real freedom, then I must claim my money. If knowing many people proves my importance, I will have to make the necessary contacts. The compulsion manifests itself in the lurking fear of failure and the steady urge to prevent this by gathering more of the same - more work, more money, more friends."*

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart*

3 realities regarding "identity":

Every attempt at "defining myself" is a sham apart from ...

My true identity can never be discovered until I ...

My truest sense of self – both purpose and worth – is ...

Romans 1:1-7 challenges me to derive my identity from ...

1) My \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ.

*Paul was both "servant" and "apostle" ...*

*Jesus, me, and a DTR moment ...*

2) My \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ.

*Paul was "set apart" for ...*

*What has God "set me apart" for?*

3) My \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.

*Notice the "we" of v.5 ...*

*What is God calling us ALL to be a part of?*

Epilogue: The Gospel ...

*Begins with ...*

*Is all about ...*

*Is laid out in ...*

*Requires ...*

*Is for ...*

*Is ultimately about ...*